

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 10385 100949Z

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7769

S E C R E T CAIRO 10385

NODIS

CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS EG US IS

SUBJECT: U.S. PRESS STORIES ABOUT U.S. INTENTIONS IN
MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS

REF: (A) CAIRO 10334, (B) CAIRO 10352, (C) STATE 90422

1. GOE ISSUED BRIEF STATEMENT LATE SATURDAY DENYING
STORY RE U.S. INTENTIONS REPORTED BY NEW YORK TIMES AND
LOS ANGELES TIMES AND INSISTING NO EGYPTIAN OFFICIAL HAD
MADE SUCH STATEMENT. DENIAL WAS CARRIED BY EGYPTIAN
MEDIA.

2. AT HIS DINNER LAST NIGHT FOR DEPARTING FRG AMBASSADOR,
FONMIN KAMEL TOLD ME THAT SADAT IS "FURIOUS" ABOUT THE
DISCLOSURE. THE PRESIDENT HAD GIVEN ORDERS TO VP MUBARAK
AND KAMEL TO FIND THE SOURCE OF THE LEAK. THEY ARE STILL
WORKING ON IT. SADAT, ACCORDING TO KAMEL, IMMEDIATELY
SUSPECTED SOURCE WAS ASHRAF GHORBAL AND STILL DOES. I
EXPRESSED PERSONAL VIEW THAT THIS WAS NOT LIKELY. GHORBAL
WAS PRESENT AT CAMP DAVID SESSIONS AND IS FULLY AWARE OF
SENSITIVITY OF THE INFORMATION CONVEYED AT THAT TIME.
KAMEL SAID THIS IS ALSO HIS VIEW. HE PERSONALLY SUS-

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PECTS USAMA AL BAZ. WHEN QUERIED, HOWEVER, AL BAZ
ADMITTED SEEING WREN AND SCHANCHE REGULARLY, BUT DENIED
DISCLOSURE HAD COME FROM HIM. AL BAZ, ACCORDING KAMEL,
EVEN SUGGESTED THAT THE LEAK HAD COME FROM U.S. SOURCES
IN WASHINGTON. I TOLD KAMEL THAT THIS WAS NOT SO. THE
FEW AMERICAN PARTICIPANTS WHO ARE PRIVY TO THIS KNOWLEDGE
ARE AWARE OF ITS SENSITIVITY. KAMEL SAID HE WAS SURE OF

THIS.

3. KAMEL SAID HIS INITIAL THOUGHT WAS TO ISSUE A COM-MUNIQUE REFUTING THE NYT AND LAT STORIES. SADAT TURNED THIS DOWN AND INSISTED GOE ISSUE A SIMPLE CATEGORICAL DENIAL.

4. COMMENT: THE DAMAGE IS, OF COURSE, DONE, BUT ALL INDICATIONS POINT TO GOE LEADERSHIP BEING GENUINELY UPSET ABOUT THE DISCLOSURE. FACT THAT SADAT SHOULD IMMEDIATELY SUSPECT GHORBAL OF BEING THE CULPRIT SUGGESTS LATTER'S - STATUS HAS NOT CHANGED MUCH SINCE FAHMY'S DEPARTURE. MY MONEY IS STILL ON AL BAZ, WHO KAMEL RIGHTLY DESCRIBED AS "SLY AND CLEVER." THERE IS NO LOVE LOST BETWEEN KAMEL, BOUTROS GHALI, MAHER AND MFA ASSOCIATES, ON THE ONE HAND, AND AL BAZ ON THE OTHER.

5. LEAVE TO DEPT WHETHER THIS MESSAGE SHOULD BE PASSED TO TEL AVIV. EILTS

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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